

AMALGAM



#1
APR 96

SUPER★ SOLDIER™



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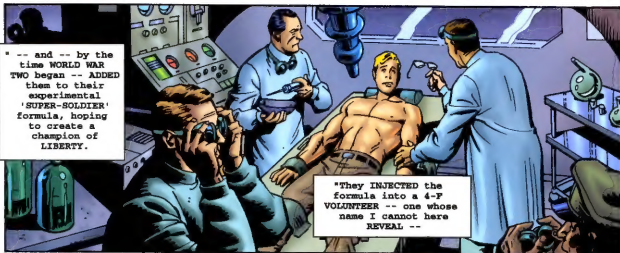
MARK WAID
DAVE GIBBONS

"The SPACE ROCKET
landed in 1938.



"No one knew where
it had COME from.
Nothing IN it SURVIVED.

"Still, the U.S. ARMY
took CELLULAR SAMPLES
from the corpse
WITHIN -- EXPERIMENTED
with them --



" -- and -- by the
time WORLD WAR
TWO began -- ADDED
them to their
experimental
'SUPER-SOLDIER'
formula, hoping
to create a
champion of
LIBERTY.

"They INJECTED the
formula into a 4-F
VOLUNTEER -- one whose
name I cannot here
REVEAL --

" -- and exposed him to a
MASSIVE jolt of SOLAR
RADIATION. Given what
they KNEW of the alien
cells, the scientists had
SOME clue as to how
this might AFFECT
the test subject --

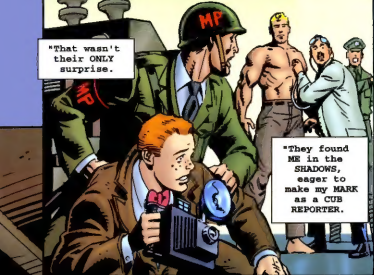


" -- but NO one
expected him
to be granted
POWERS and
ABILITIES --

" -- so
FAR BEYOND
those of
MORTAL
MEN."



SUPER SOLDIER 1, April, 1996. Published by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. Copyright © 1996 DC Comics and Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. AMALGAM and all Amalgam characters, the distinctive likenesses thereof, names and related elements are jointly held trademarks of DC Comics and Marvel Characters, Inc. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. For advertising space contact: East Coast, Tom Bellou, (212) 836-6620; Midwest, The Graffiti Group (312) 530-5500; West Coast, The Berman Company (818) 945-4708. Printed on recyclable paper. Printed in Canada. First Printing.
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"That wasn't
their **ONLY**
surprise."

"They found
ME in the
SHADOWS,
eager to
make my **MARK**
as a **CUB**
REPORTER."



"Fortunately, we
Olsens talk **FAST**.
I struck a **DEAL**."

"I wouldn't rat
out the **PROJECT**
-- IF the govern-
ment made me
the **OFFICIAL**
PRESS FLAK --"

" -- of **SUPER-SOLDIER**."

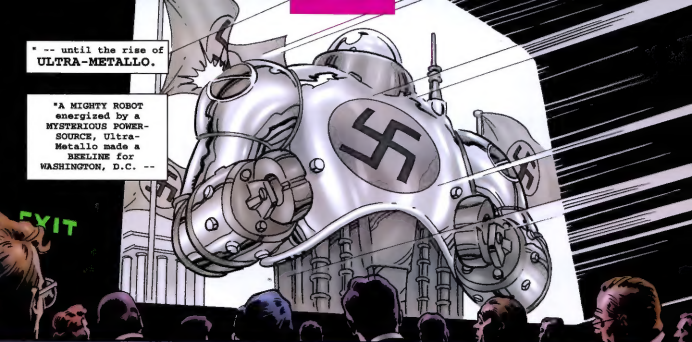


"With MY **HELP**, **ALLIED**
TROOPERS and **NAZI**
WARMONGERS alike
read of Super-
Soldier's **EVERY**
MOVE -- witnessed
his **EVERY** **VICTORY**."

"By **MARCH** of 1942,
Super-Soldier had
the war all but **WON**
nearly **SINGLE-**
HANDEDLY -- "

"-- until the rise of
ULTRA-METALLO.

"A MIGHTY ROBOT
energized by a
MYSTERIOUS POWER-
SOURCE, Ultra-
Metallo made a
BEELINE for
WASHINGTON, D.C. --



"-- only to be
INTERCEPTED
over the
North
Atlantic.



"As I
WATCHED,
Super-
Soldier
and his foe
locked one
another in
a DEATH
GRIP...

"...and
plummeted
beneath
the ICY
WAVES...

"...never
to be seen
AGAIN.

"America's CHAMPION...
my FRIEND... was GONE...

"...leaving me with the STORY
of the CENTURY... and an
UNGODLY moral dilemma.

"Should I REPORT it?
My ALLEGIANCE was to
the TRUTH. Journalists
deal in FACTS.



"And yet, I knew what a BLOW
news of Super-Soldier's DEATH
would be to ALLIED MORALE, with
LEX LUTHOR still months away from
perfecting the war-ending K-BOMBS,
the Allies had to hold STRONG.

"In the END, I made my CHOICE.
It was the HARDEST DECISION
I ever had to MAKE..."

Daily Planet

March 21st, 1942

"...HEAVEN
HELP ME."

BOO-
HOO.

WHAT A
HEARTFELT
CHARADE...YET
THE TRUTH
WILL OUT...

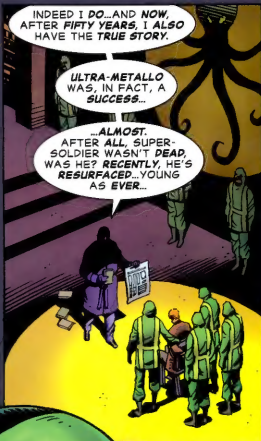
SUPER-SOLDIER WINS WAR
PRESIDENT RETIRES TO ANONYMITY
EXCLUSIVE CORRESPONDENT JAMES OLSEN



...WON'T IT,
MR. OLSEN?

TIME HAS A
WAY OF ERODING
LIES.

MY JOURNALS...
YOU HAVE MY
JOURNALS...?



INDEED I DO...AND NOW,
AFTER FIFTY YEARS, I ALSO
HAVE THE TRUE STORY.

ULTRA-METALLO
WAS, IN FACT, A
SUCCESS...

...ALMOST.
AFTER ALL, SUPER-
SOLDIER WASN'T DEAD,
WAS HE? RECENTLY, HE'S
RESURFACED...YOUNG
AS EVER...



...THOUGH MUCH
WEAKER. I'VE LONG
WONDERED WHY...

...AND THANKS TO
YOU...I NOW
HAVE A
CLUE.

WH--

!KOFF!

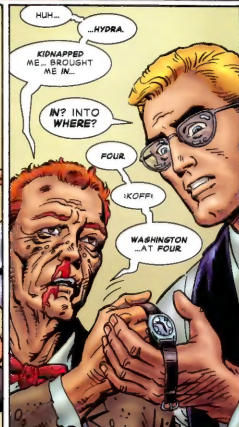
WHY?

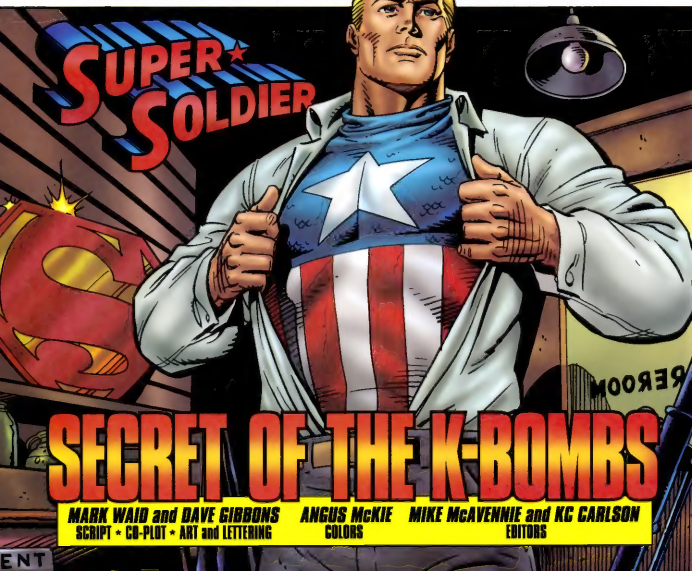
YOU
WON'T LIVE
LONG ENOUGH
TO CARE.

THAT'S THE
PRICE YOU PAY
FOR CROSSING
LEX LUTHOR.

DISPOSE
OF HIM.







SECRET OF THE K-BOMBS

MARK WAID and DAVE GIBBONS
SCRIPT • CO-PLOT • ART and LETTERING

ANGUS MCKIE
COLORS

MIKE McAVENNIE and KC CARLSON
EDITORS



DAMN YOU, LUTHOR.

FIVE DECADES. THAT'S HOW LONG I WAS FROZEN UNTIL THE JLA FOUND ME-- THAWED ME OUT--

--INTO A WORLD WITHOUT JUSTICE

INTO A WORLD WHERE I'M GRADUALLY GETTING WEAKER WHILE YOU AND YOUR SECRET HYDRA CARTEL GROW STRONGER AND STRONGER.

THE PUBLIC THINKS YOU'RE A RECLUSIVE SAINT. ONLY I KNOW--

*-- THAT YOU WERE BEHIND ULTRA METALLO--

*-- THAT YOU WANTED ME OUT OF THE WAY SO YOU COULD PROFIT FROM THE WAR ON YOUR OWN TIMETABLE

"RATHER THAN TRY TO PROVE IT, I WENT TOE-TOE WITH YOUR CREATION ARMED WITH AN OVER-CONFIDENCE..."



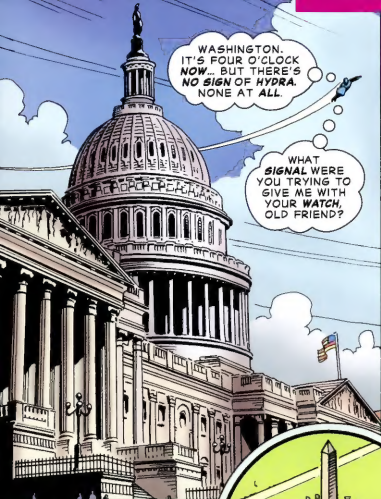
...THAT COST ME VICTORY...AND WORSE...



...COST THE WORLD THE CHANCE TO BE FREE OF YOUR EVIL FOR THE NEXT HALF CENTURY.

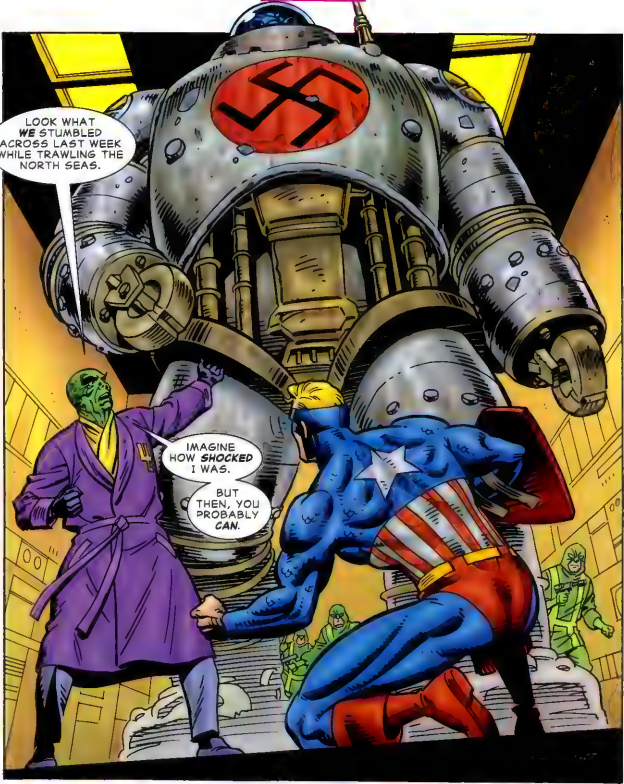
THAT'S A SHAME I'LL MAKE UP FOR...

...IF IT TAKES MY DYING BREATH









LOOK WHAT
WE STUMBLED
ACROSS LAST WEEK
WHILE TRAWLING THE
NORTH SEAS.

IMAGINE
HOW SHOCKED
I WAS.

BUT
THEN, YOU
PROBABLY
CAN.



ONCE I HAD ULTRA-METALLO
BACK, I KNEW OLSEN'S FIFTY-
YEAR-OLD CLAIM THAT YOU'D
DESTROYED HIM WAS BUNK..
THAT HE WAS A MORE
FORMIDABLE FOE THAN
WE'D REALIZED.

OLSEN'S
JOURNALS TOLD
THE REST. METALLO
IS STILL PERFECTLY
CAPABLE OF CARRYING
OUT HIS ORIGINAL
OBJECTIVE.



THINK
BACK. DO YOU
REMEMBER WHAT
IT WAS?





FIGHT ON,
SUPER-SOLDIER!
YOU CAN HEAR
ME, CAN'T
YOU?

OF COURSE
YOU CAN—WITH
WHAT'S LEFT OF
YOUR SUPER-
HEARING.

AND I
CAN SEE YOU
THROUGH METALLO'S
CAMERAS—FROM THE
SAFETY OF MY
BUNKER.

I
SUPPOSE THIS
MIGHT BE AN
ENTERTAINING
BATTLE.

ONCE BEFORE,
YOU FOUGHT HIM
TO A STANDSTILL—
WHEN YOU WERE AT
YOUR PHYSICAL
PEAK.

ONCE
BEFORE.

FWAM

ANGER
DEMOLITION





IF I CAN
JUST GET TO
THE BOMB...

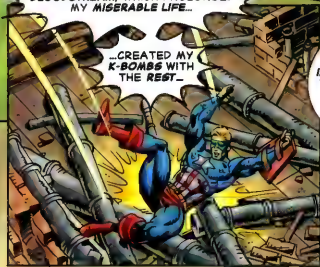


YEAAAARGH!

HURTS,
DIDN'T IT?
RADIATION'S
A BEAR.

URANIUM? PLUTONIUM?
NO. THE ROBOT'S DRIVEN BY A
METEORITE THAT LANDED NEAR
THAT OLD ALIEN ROCKET SHIP. I LIKE
TO CALL IT THE KANSAS LODGE--
"GREEN K" FOR SHORT.

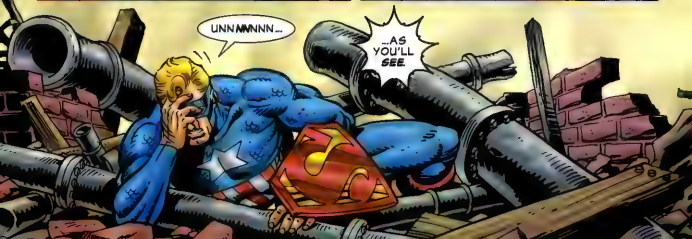
FOR THE LONGEST TIME,
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH
IT. I INJECTED SOME INTO MY
BLOODSTREAM, WHICH PROLONGED
MY MISERABLE LIFE...



...CREATED MY
K-BOMBS WITH
THE REST...

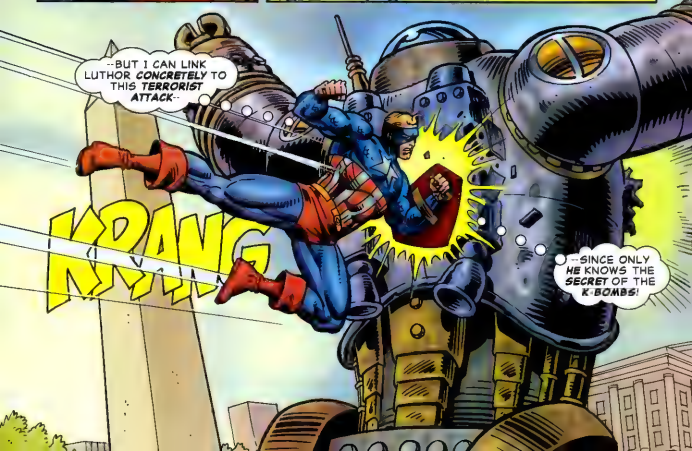
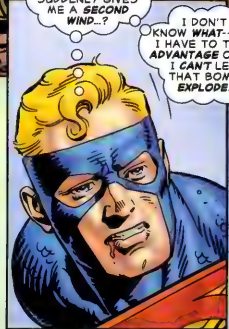


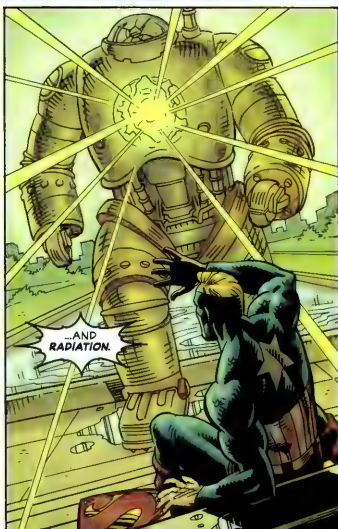
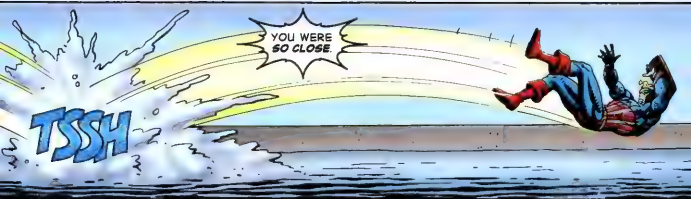
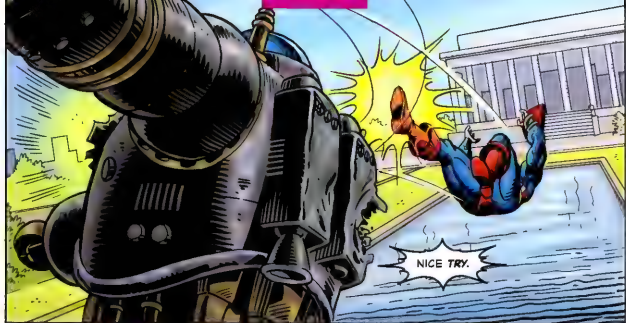
...BUT
THERE'S
STILL ENOUGH
INSIDE METALLO
TO CREATE THE
MOTHER OF
K-BOMB
EXPLO-
SIONS...

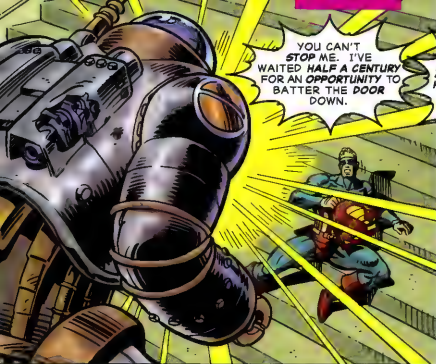


UNNNNNNN...

...AS
YOU'LL
SEE.







YOU CAN'T STOP ME. I'VE WAITED HALF A CENTURY FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO BATTER THE DOOR DOWN.

ONCE THE OVAL OFFICE BECOMES GROUND ZERO, AMERICA WILL HAPPILY TURN TO LEX LUTHOR AND HIS FORTUNE FOR LEADERSHIP AND AID.



AND AS FOR YOU, YOU HAS-BEEN...WELL...

...I ONLY REGRET THAT YOU HAVE BUT ONE LIFE TO LOSE FOR YOUR COUNTRY.



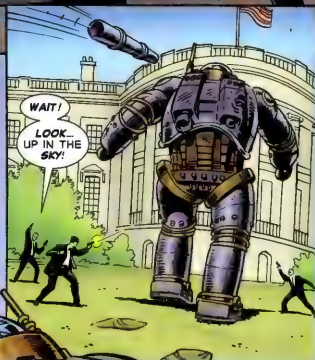
WHAT? YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY?

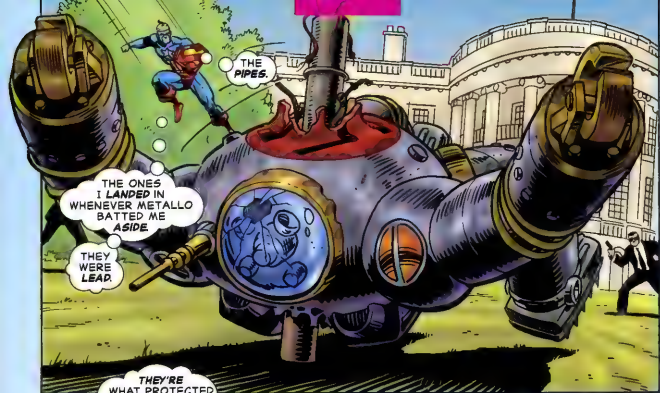
BEAUTIFUL! AT LAST, EVERYONE GETS TO SEE SUPER-SOLDIER'S TRUE COLORS...

...RED, WHITE, AND YELLOW!

ONWARD, METALLO!







THE
PIPES.

THE ONES
I LANDED IN
WHENEVER METALLO
BATTED ME
ASIDE

THEY
WERE
LEAD.

THEY'RE
WHAT PROTECTED
ME FROM THE
K-RADIATION.

NOW, WITH
METALLO PITTED
LIKE AN OLIVE, I CAN
TRAP THE K-BOMB
INSIDE THE
LEAD...



...AND
THROW
IT ...

...UP ...
UP ... AND
AWAY!



NO!

TO HELL
WITH YOU, SOLDIER!
I WON'T BE DEFEATED
LIKE THIS! DO YOU
HEAR ME?

I'LL
BLOW THE
BOMB
YET!



I WOULDN'T IF I WERE YOU.

AND WHY NOT?



YOU'RE STILL WEAK! YOU CAN'T HOLD ME BACK!

FINE.



BE MY GUEST.

KRASH

NO! IT'S NOT FAIR! I'VE WAITED FIFTY YEARS FOR MY CHANCE TO TAKE YOU DOWN! FIFTY YEARS!



THAT MAKES TWO OF US, LUTHOR.

LET'S GO.

LUTHOR EXPOSED

BEHIND WASHINGTON ATTACK

EXCLUSIVE BY JAMES OLSEN

...leaving unparalleled scenes of destruction in the heart of Washington D.C., a huge...
...invited by Super-Soldier only yards...
...the Oval Office...
...ed the Nazi relic, code-named Ultra...
...was a device of...
...believed by the...
...training...

and supposed philanthropist, Lex Luthor.
It was the research work he funded on the mysterious element from space that the development of the K-Bomb.
He now stands accused of plotting the murder of hundreds of thousands of Americans, including...

NICE WORK, CHIEF! I ALWAYS KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT LUTHOR!

YOU NAILED HIM, BOSS! THEY SAY HIS EMPIRE IS CRUMBLING FROM THE FALLOUT!

YEAH, YEAH...

FALLOUT.

THE SECRET OF MY GROWING WEAKNESS.

THE FALLOUT FROM LUTHOR'S K-BOMBS HAS PERMEATED THE WORLD...CREATING A BLANKET OF RADIATION THAT HARMS ONLY ME.

IN TIME, WHO KNOWS WHAT EFFECT IT MIGHT...

PEST! KENT! THANKS!

YOU OKAY?

LET IT GO FOR NOW, CLARK. CONCENTRATE ON THE VICTORY.

JIM FELT GUILTY FOR TOO LONG ABOUT INVENTING NEWS ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

BY REPORTING THE INSIDE STORY ON LUTHOR, HE'S MORE THAN REDEEMED HIMSELF. GOOD WORK, PARTNER.

WE CAN BOTH REST WELL... FOR THE MOMENT. STILL, THE WAR AGAINST HYDRA ISN'T OVER. LUTHOR'S FORCES WILL NO DOUBT RISE AGAIN TO PLAGUE MANKIND.

BUT THE DAY THAT WAR BEGINS ANEW...THE FRONT LINES WILL BELONG TO SUPER-SOLDIER.

THE BATTLE NEVER ENDS...

Despite a more than fifty-year hiatus, Super-Soldier's recent return to comics in the pages of JUDGMENT LEAGUE AVENGERS and ACTION & SUSPENSE COMICS has generated tons of mail, all of it demanding that our greatest American hero star in his own book! Therefore, we Amalgamites have finally gotten the hint and done it! With Mark Waid and Dave Gibbons bringing us Truth, Liberty and the American Way every month, SUPER-SOLDIER will be bigger and better than ever!

But hey, you're not here to hear us babble, so let's just check out your comments regarding ACTION & SUSPENSE #59!

Super Soliders:

Finally, you've given this old war horse a dream come true. When I fought in World War II, I wasn't much older than Super-Soldier's sidekick, James Olsen, but I was a big fan of the character. Some of the boys and I read every issue of SUPER-SOLDIER ACTION; even our C.O. would get into the act, reading them out loud to those who were interested (which, by the end of each story, was pretty much everyone in our infantry).

Then, he suddenly disappeared. I understood that the recycling of paper became crucial to the war effort at that point, but we missed having Super-Soldier on the field with us—me especially. Even though we won the war, I felt like I'd lost a comrade in arms.

And now, here I am, fifty years later. The war has long since ended. Countries we once fought are now our allies. It's a different world. I've grown up in that world, altering my beliefs with the times. But my love for my favorite hero has never altered. And now you've brought him back. Bravo.

Seeing Super-Soldier both thawed out back in JUDGMENT LEAGUE AVENGERS #4 and appearing solo in ACTION & SUSPENSE #59 has brought back an era of greatness, as a friend whom I thought long lost in battle returned. And, like I did, he must make many adjustments in today's society. Fortunately, I had fifty years to do so. Clark Kent does not have that luxury.

Even more amazing is how you've also brought back Luther and Hydra, Super-Soldier's archenemies from the war. Your writer and artist, Mark Waid and Dave Gibbons, have brilliantly thrown our hero right into the thick of battle once more. And if that weren't enough, you've even brought back Olsen, now editor of the very paper for which he was a cub reporter. Seeing Clark's reaction to a friend who was once almost half his age now looking more than twice his age was pure genius, and very touching. My heart goes out to Clark. And my heart goes out to all of you over at

MAIL CALL

Amalgam... for bringing back my dear old friend.

SIMON SHUSTER
Cleveland, OH

The pleasure's all ours, Simon. Your letter brought tears of joy around the Amalgam office, and further convinces us that Super-Soldier is a timeless hero whose story—after six decades in the making—has only begun!



Dear Amalgamaniacs:

Super-Soldier? Super-Soldier?!? A fifty-year-old has-been who must rediscover both himself and the new world surrounding him is the best you can do?

Guess I can live with that. May the battle for Truth, Liberty and the American Way never end! MAKE MINE AMALGAM!

OTTO STERNBYRNE
Fairfield, CT

P.S. Let's see Super-Soldier and Amazon hook up! They'd make a perfect couple!

That is an interesting match, Otto, and who knows? Perhaps something'll come out of their meeting over in JLX #4! What exactly, you ask? Sorry—that's classified!



Dear Amalgamites:

ACTION & SUSPENSE #59 was yet another reason why Super-Soldier's return is an event that's destined to make comics history. While I was too young for his original adventures back in WW II, I read some of my grandfather's old SUPER-SOLDIER comics, which he'd given me after I cleaned out his attic (a superhuman feat, I assure you). After reading them, I could only wonder why it took you guys all these years to bring him back.

One thing I really liked about A & S #59 is the way you're integrating Super-Soldier into the nineties. I'm still amazed that you'd take such a bold step; I mean, giving us the exact same hero after a fifty-year absence! Even more amazing is that Mark Waid and Dave Gibbons made Clark Kent a fresh and interesting character who shows no sign of age. Too bad the same can't be said for James Olsen and ol' green-skull himself,

Lex Luther (though Super-Soldier is justifiably concerned about his reduced abilities. Will you follow up on that any time soon?)

Well, with Yesterday's Man of Tomorrow appearing in both ACTION & SUSPENSE and JLX, it looks like Super-Soldier is going to live a much longer life than his previous time

out. And I couldn't be happier.

KIRBY SIEGEL
Brooklyn, NY

P.S. Grandpa and I have a bet. He says Super-Soldier always fought solo, but an editorial reference in SUPER-SOLDIER ACTION #14 leads me to suspect that he was part of a team back in the forties. Can you confirm this? Loser pays for the next two steak dinners!

Order king-sized steaks, Kirby ol' pal, 'cause you're absolutely right! Super-Soldier was part of a team—the All-Star Winners Society, who appeared in ALL-STAR WINNERS COMICS. The book only lasted about a year and a half, and ended with SUPER-SOLDIER ACTION and many other titles during the paper rationing, for the war effort. And hey, while you're chowin' down with Gramps, tell him he also has to pick up JLX #1 (now on sale), in which Yesterday's Man of Tomorrow is a member!

In addition, as you probably read this very issue, the fallout from Luther's K-Bombs was the contributing factor to Super-Soldier's growing weakness. Only time will tell if the weakness will abate on its own or take its toll on our Star-Spangled Man of Steel!

—Smilin' Mike "The Man" McAnelson
Part-time shield varnisher.

NEXT ISSUE: He's a strange visitor from another planet. How does our hero feel about this? Well, he'd probably be happier if the alien wasn't chokin' the life outta him! He's big! He's unstoppable! He's...DOOMNAUTI! And he's arriving in thirty days, courtesy of Waid and Gibbons! This ish is also a prelude to our multipart epic "Reign of the Super-Soldiers," so you'll hate yourselves for missing this one!

So, whaddya think of our American-made marvel's first solo cover in over fifty years? Bringing new glory to Old Glory in D.C. was artist extraordinaire Dave Gibbons, and masterfully red, white and hued by Angus McKie!

AMALGAM



AMALGAM COMICS, 1700 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019

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AMALGAM NATION

CARWALD'S CORNERBOX

Greetings, Amalgamaniacs! This is the month it happens—where the Amalgam Universe bursts wide open and we launch twelve (count'em-twelve) new titles featuring some of your favorite Amalgamated superstars in their own titles at last! This is a comic book counterrevolution and you, sensation-seekers, are getting in on ground zero!

We could heap on more hype, but instead we'd like to shift gears a moment and talk about something truly important in the cosmic scheme—namely, brotherhood. Friends, go out and make an effort to get along with someone whose ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, or comic book preference is unlike your own. After all, we're all passengers on the same planet going 'round, and when it gets down to it, everybody wants the same basic things out of life. So let's each do our part to make the ride go a bit smoother. Says ul!

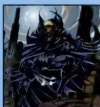
Now, with that off our chest, we want to remind you, the second wave of the Amalgam Era of Comics is now upon us! And it wouldn't be happening if you mighty Amalgamites didn't demand it. Accelerate!

— M.M. CARWALD



SPEED DEMON #1: Blaze Allen teams up with his nephew Wally in a race against time and Hell itself to snatch the soul of the Green Goblin. If they fail, the Night Spectre wins the keys to the nether-realm! By Howard Mackie, James Fielder, Salvador Larrocca, and Al Milgrom!

LEGEND OF THE DARKCLAW #1: The adamantium-clawed nocturnal protector of New Gotham is joined by Sparrow, his spunky protégé, in his war against the feral and psychotic Hymna! By Larry Hama, Jim Balent, and Ray McCarthy.



BRUCE WAYNE, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. #1: Driven by the murder of his parents, a grim multimillionaire focuses his rage by forging Amalgam's premier espionage strike force! Now Wayne and his agents have to save the East Coast from the depredations of the Green Skull! By Chuck Dixon and Cary Nord!



X-PATROL #1: Ferro-Man! Elasti-Girl! Dial H.U.S.K.! Miles Cable! Shatterstarfire! Beasting! Six outsiders unite for the first time to face the dreaded despot known as Doctor Doomday! By Karl Kessel, Barbara Kessel, Roger Cruz, and Jon Holdredge!

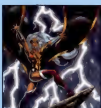
JLX #1: They're outlaws hated by the world they've sworn to protect—and hounded by the avenging heroes of the J.L.A. Even if they survive the awesome assault of Amalgam's mightiest heroes, they must still face the discovery that a member of their squad is not what he appears to be! By Mark Waid, Gerard Jones, Howard Porter, and John Dell!



SPIDER-BOY #1: He's the world-famous web-slinging superstar, he can stick to walls, and his crash pad is the Baxter Building—not bad for a teenaged punk! Now two obstacles loom in the path of the amazing archid—Buzarnage and King Lizard! By Karl Kessel and Mike Wieringo!



BULLETS & BRACELETS #1: Years ago an unlikely romantic interlude between Trevor Castle and Diana of Themyscira produced a child. Now this punishing man and wonderful woman must unite once more to save their son from Thanosoid! By John Ostrander, Gary Frank, and Cam Smith!



AMAZON #1: Reared on the island of Themyscira, weather-wielding mutant Ororo Munroe battles the very gods of legend she has been taught to worship! By John Byrne and Terry Austin!



DOCTOR STRANGEFATE #1: Amalgam's Supreme Lord of Order, Doctor Strangefate, will do anything to preserve the Amalgam Universe—even kill the strange new hero Access! By Ron Marz, Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez, and Kevin Nowlan!



ASSASSINS #1: Dare and Catcat—two of Amalgam's deadliest femmes fatales—must negotiate the deathtraps of Arkham Tower to assassinate the mayor! By D.G. Chichester and Scott McDaniel!

MAGNETO & THE MAGNETIC MEN #1: Erik Magnus watched in horror as his comrades were slaughtered. Now utilizing the technology of his mutant-hating brother used to create the Sentinels, Magnus constructs five robots, each formed from a different metal, to protect his fellow Homo Superiors. Mark Waid, Gerard Jones, Jeff Matsuda, and Art Thibert!



SUPER-SOLDIER #1: Transformed by an experimental infusion of alien DNA, a mere mortal became the greatest fighting machine of World War II. Revived in modern times, the living legend must battle the Green Skull and Hydra while defending truth, justice, and the American way. By Mark Waid and Dave Gibbons!

MINUTEMEN



See No Bob



Hear No Bob